

February 20, 2019

Energy and Technology Committee

Re: Proposed HB 5002, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREEN NEW DEAL

Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

I would like to thank the committee and the many co-sponsors of the HB 5002 for proposing a Green New Deal in Connecticut. Although the news about climate disruption for the past decade has grown increasingly bleak and the current federal administration is intent on making it worse, the ideas around the Green New Deal provide realistic hope that we can address the crisis while we improve the economy, eliminate pollution, and bring environmental justice to our state and nation.

The resolution introduced in the federal congress has several parts that our state could implement to benefit the people of CT. To list just a few goals that the state could enact :

- meeting 100 percent of the power demand in CT through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources
- overhauling transportation systems to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, through investment in (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing; (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transit; and (iii) high-speed rail;
- identifying emission & pollution sources and creating solutions to remove them
- providing resources, training, and high-quality education, including higher education, to all people of CT, with a focus on frontline and vulnerable communities,
- making public investments in the research, development, and construction of new clean and renewable energy technologies and industries;

Implementing these policies will make our state our leader in the fight against climate disruption and a better place for the people that live here. It will also make CT a model of success for other states and a desirable place for people & businesses looking to relocate.

Any Green New Deal legislation drafted by this committee must chart a plan for CT government departments, agencies and future administrations to transition the state away from fossil fuels and to a sustainable future. It must provide clear directions for protecting environmental justice communities from the harm they have suffered for too many decades. It must prioritize the needs of the people of CT and not corporations that can transfer the benefits to other states or countries. It must be bold, aspirational and demand the best of our state government , the companies that do business here and anyone the state chooses to contract with.

I urge this committee to draft the Green New Deal legislation with the knowledge that addressing climate change is not something to do in the future : we need to do it now and we need to do it fast. We have all the necessary technology to accomplish this. Do not allow the lobbyist from the fossil fuel industries to tell you : “we need to wait”, “we’re not ready”, “it will be too costly” . These are excuses in service of preserving their profits and not in the interests of the people of CT . The people are ready, the time is now and we cannot wait.

Thank you,

Ben Martin

Member of 350 CT

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